

‘One country, two systems’ policy should be followed for sustained development of Hong Kong: People’s Daily

The “one country, two systems” policy is proven not only the best solution to the Hong Kong question left over from history, but also the most ideal institutional arrangement to ensure Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability, People’s Daily said in its editorial published on Saturday, the day marking the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland.

The policy is also China’s unique contribution to political civilization of the mankind, the article added.

The concept of "one country, two systems" was put forward in the early 1980s by late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, in an effort to realize the peaceful reunification of China.

Over the past 2 decades, the central government has followed the “one country, two systems” principle, abided by China's Constitution and the Basic Law, the mini-constitution of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), managed to fulfill the responsibilities stipulated by the constitutional rules and rendered staunch support to the law-based governance by Chief Executive and government of the HKSAR, the paper said.

During the same period, the special administrative region, which was authorized to exercise a high degree of autonomy, has enjoyed executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication, the article pointed out, adding that its previous capitalist system and the way of life remained unchanged.

The laws previously in force before Hong Kong’s returning remained basically the same as well over the last 20 years, it further stressed.

With a steady economic growth, Hong Kong maintained its position as global financial, trade and shipping hub, and was recognized as one of the world's freest and most competitive economies for years, the People’s Daily highlighted.

Its education, medical care, culture, sports, social insurance and other undertakings have witnessed improvements as well, the commentary added.

Thanks to the unremitting efforts to improve the democratic political system, the Hong Kong citizens now enjoy unprecedented democratic rights and freedom, the paper noted.

As a result of its closer bonds with the mainland, Hong Kong was driven by the development of the whole country. Its increasing exchanges with the outside world also endow it with rising international influence.

The “one country, two systems” policy needs to be further optimized, the editorial said, explaining that in the past two decades, the central government and the Hong Kong government, while

dealing with the newly-emerging challenges, have realized the key grounds to implement the “one country, two systems”.

In order to better the “one country, two systems” undertakings, the central government and the Hong Kong government should understand and implement the policy in a comprehensive and correct manner, keep to the fundamental objectives of the policy, and guard the national sovereignty, security as well as development interests, the paper emphasized.

Equal weights should be given to the two parts of the “one country, two systems” policy, that is to say, to adhere to the “one country” principle, while respect the difference of the “two systems”, maintain the power of the central government, while ensure the high degree of autonomy of the region government, play the backing role of the mainland, while improve the competence of Hong Kong itself, the article underlined.

Only when those actions are taken, can the “one country, two systems” policy be implemented according to the planned track and march towards sustained development along the right direction, People’s Daily concluded at last.

人民日报：沿着“一国两制”正确方向行稳致远

7月1日，香港回归中国20周年之际，人民日报发表社论，称事实证明，“一国两制”是历史遗留的香港问题的最佳解决方案，也是香港回归后保持长期繁荣稳定的最佳制度安排，是中国对人类政治文明的独特贡献。

上世纪80年代初，邓小平同志以伟大政治家的智慧和胆略，提出了“一个国家，两种制度”的伟大构想，通过外交谈判和平解决香港问题。

文章指出，20年来中央政府坚持贯彻“一国两制”，严格依照国家宪法和香港基本法办事，认真履行宪制责任，坚定支持香港特别行政区行政长官和政府依法施政；香港特别行政区依法实行高度自治，享有行政管理权、立法权、独立的司法权和终审权，继续保持原有的资本主义制度和生活方式不变，法律基本不变；香港经济稳定增长，始终保持国际金融、贸易、航运中心地位，连续多年被评为全球最自由经济体和最具竞争力地区之一。香港教育、医疗卫生、文化、体育、社会保障等社会事业不断迈上新台阶；民主政制依法稳步推进，港人享有前所未有的民主权利和更加广泛的自由；香港与内地的联系更加紧密，从国家发展中获得更强劲的动力；香港对外交往不断扩大，国际影响进一步提升。

文章表示，“一国两制”事业需要在实践中不断探索完善。二十年来，在不断应对和处理各种新情况新问题的过程中，中央政府和香港特别行政区深刻地认识到：继续推进“一国两制”事业，必须全面准确理解和贯彻“一国两制”方针，牢牢把握“一国两制”的根本宗旨，共同维护国家主权、安全、发展利益，保持香港长期繁荣稳定；必须把坚持“一国”原则和尊重“两制”差异、维护中央权力和保障特别行政区高度自治权、发挥祖国内地坚强后盾作用和提高

香港自身竞争力有机结合起来，任何时候都不能偏废。只有这样，才能确保“一国两制”的实践不走样不变形，始终沿着正确方向行稳致远。